



Cecil's Horse Sanctuary

Newsletter Summer 2022

We, at Cecil's Horse Sanctuary, are excited to release our first quarterly newsletter to keep you, our wonderful supporters, in the loop. Every season, we will update you on all the goings on at Cecil's, including exciting news, upcoming events, pony updates, volunteer stories and so much more! In this, our first edition of our newsletter, learn more about our horse sanctuary, find out what we have been up to this summer, and discover more ways you can support us. Cecil's Horse Sanctuary is a place for sick, abandoned and elderly ponies. Founded in 2016, our aim is to give these horses a home where they get all the care and love they need.

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About The Sanctuary

In the early 2000's yard owner, Julie Blake, rescued several horses who were deaf, blind, or unwanted. Over time, Julie's herd expanded as she rescued more and more horses. Eventually, Julie's yard had become a horse sanctuary, taking on volunteers to help care for the horses and expanding rapidly. Julie realised that the sanctuary could not survive without additional income. Already working 3 jobs to keep the sanctuary going and, in fear of it closing down, Julie decided to apply to become a registered charity. It was in 2016 that Cecil's Horse Sanctuary successfully became a registered charity.

But why 'Cecil's' Horse Sanctuary? Well, the name Cecil comes from Julie's miniature Shetland foal who was stolen off her yard in 2014. Cecil the foal was also named after Julie's dad who had recently passed away from cancer. So in memory of Julie's father and her foal Cecil, the sanctuary was named after them.



Cecil's Horse Sanctuary

Summer Events

Summer Fêtes



Summer is the perfect time for fêtes, fayres and fun, and over these past few months, we have been invited to several events. On the 2nd June, we visited St Meryl's School in Watford, on the 10th we went to Monksmead School in Borehamwood and on the 1st of July we visited St Theresa's Catholic School in Borehamwood. We took along our miniature Shetlands for everyone to meet, and had a great time talking to all the visitors about our sanctuary.

We would also like to thank all the organisers of Dacorum Steam & Country Fayre for inviting us to an amazing two day event, so that we could help them raise money for The Hospice of St Francis. We are so grateful as they also allowed us to fundraise for ourselves. We were treated like VIP's as well, thank you.

It was fantastic meeting so many wonderful people, and we hope you will all come and visit the ponies again at our Berkhamsted site.



Jubilee Celebrations

To commemorate the Queen's Jubilee in June, Cecil's celebrated with a themed open day. Visitors participated in a whole host of games, like the sack race, egg and spoon and pin the horn on the unicorn. Some of our visitors got a make-over during our toilet roll wrap game, while others got their ponies to bob for their favourite fruit and veg. Our Shetlands were also on their best behaviour balancing little bean bags on their backs for races.



To cap off a very sunny day, everyone won special edition rosettes, goodie bags and more. It was tons of fun! A big thank you to all those who attended, to our volunteers without whom it would not have been possible, and to the Shetlands for being so well behaved!

The Schopwick Garden Party



We were lucky enough to be invited back to the Schopwick Garden Party in Elstree, in aid of the NSPCC. We had a fantastic, sunny afternoon helping to raise money for the NSPCC as well for our ponies. We are very honoured to be invited back each year and are already looking forward to next year's Garden Party.



Cecil's Horse Sanctuary

Updates

Our Shetlands move home

For the past few months, our volunteers have been working very hard preparing our field in Berkhamsted ready to house our miniature Shetlands. Finally, on the 7th August our ponies Ceri, Remy, Hector, Evie, Hettie, Shakira and Percy moved to their new home, and have settled in well, alongside our Berkhamsted herd. You can now come and visit our miniature Shetlands in Berkhamsted by booking a pony session. To find out more about our pony sessions and other visitor experiences, see our newsletter page 'Get Involved' or check out our website.



Pony Birthdays



6th June- Remy, our 'blue roan few spot' miniature Shetland turned 15 in June. Remy came to the sanctuary just an hour before he was meant to be destroyed as his owners had kept him shut away and neglected. He is now happily living with the other Shetlands.



30th June- Our pony Whiskers, who lives at our Luton field, turned 14 in June.



3rd July- Honey and Fudge are relative newcomers to Cecils. They are a mother and daughter pair that came to us from a woman who had previously rescued them. As we don't know much about their past, we celebrate their birthdays on the 3rd July. Fudge is in her mid-20s and Honey is 16 years old.



Cecil's Horse Sanctuary

Thank You's

Company Donations

As a charity, we rely solely on donations to keep running. This includes item donations, as well as monetary. Here, we'd like to say a big thank you to the various companies who have donated an assortment of items that have been essential and very helpful in keeping our sanctuary running.



Sure Green donated some bamboo screening, which we have started

to use at our Elstree site to tidy up a messy corner, we are still to erect a further section.
www.sure-green.com

FLANNERY

Flannery Plant Hire very kindly hired us a digger for use at our

Elstree site which has enabled us to start clearing some of the muck heaps and spreading it, amongst a host of other jobs that needed doing.

www.flanneryplanthire.com



Stablebed donated 42 bales of shavings, which are always needed to make our stables a comfortable and clean

environment for our ponies.

www.hoppings.co.uk/stable-bed/



Nedz donated 20 bales of bedding, which is also wonderful for ensuring the

stables are comfortable.

www.nedz.co.uk

Rr Art

Rachael Robinson Art, an amazing animal artist has donated several prints to be sold and auctioned.
www.rrobinsonart.co.uk



Sanctuary COFFEE

Thank you to Marcus and Rhian at Sanctuary Coffee for dedicating their Little Joe Coffee to us, named after our Shetland pony Little Joe. Every time a packet of their Little Joe Coffee is

sold, we receive a percentage.

www.sanctuarycoffee.co.uk/

We also want to thank all those who have donated rugs and tack. These are so helpful not only in keeping our horses warm in the winter, and for general care, but also for us to raise funds through selling these items.

If you think your company can help us out in any way, please get in touch by email. We'd love to hear from you, and we'll say a big thank you to your company both here and on social media.

Corporate Sponsorships

This year we have introduced a corporate sponsorship scheme – a great way for local (and not so local) companies to get involved. There are three levels of sponsorship available – bronze, silver and gold. It is a great way to support the ponies at the sanctuary – from just £10 a month.

We are happy to welcome Riso to the scheme who have sponsored one of our blind ponies – the beautiful Noodles and also Waitrose (Harrow) who have sponsored Remy, Shakira and Percy – three of our miniature Shetlands.



Please see our website for further details:
www.cecilshorsesanctuary.org/sponsor-a-pony-corporate



Cecil's Horse Sanctuary

Get Involved

New Visitor Experiences



Moving our Shetlands to Berkhamsted has allowed us to offer open days there. If you're interested in being one of the first to see our beautiful Berkhamsted field and walk the woodland trail with our miniature shetlands, email us at cecilshorsesanctuary@hotmail.com and ask to book one of our Sunday Berkhamsted pony sessions now. The sessions include 1:1 grooming, leading, a personalised certificate and a sanctuary rosette.

We are also still welcoming visitors to our Elstree field however, with a brand new experience. Meet our rescue ponies up close and personal. This includes meeting Noodles and Moli, our blind ponies as well as others with heart conditions and disabilities etc. Hear more about the Sanctuary, our volunteers and our pony's stories.

For more details about this exciting new visitor experience, please email us at cecilshorsesanctuary@hotmail.com.

Sponsorships

Sponsoring one of our ponies helps greatly with their care and upkeep of their home. Sponsorships start with our Bronze package which includes a personalised certificate, photo and information about your sponsored pony. With our special Silver and Gold packages, you'll receive a voucher for a pony session with your sponsored pony at Berkhamsted, as well as other goodies. These make a wonderful gift for someone that loves ponies, as they gain the opportunity to meet and groom the pony they are sponsoring. We also plan to offer the chance to sponsor some of the ponies at Elstree with the Gold Package including a voucher to attend a Meet the Ponies up Close and Personal session. Please email us if you are interested.

To sponsor one of our lovely ponies, go to: www.cecilshorsesanctuary.org/sponsor-a-pony and download a sponsorship form.

Volunteer With Us



Would you like to be part of our friendly team? Are you over 14 yrs old and able to spare a few hours a week, helping to train miniature Shetlands for pony sessions and then assisting at weekend open days? We also have 'yard' jobs to do - such as poo-picking and filling the water buckets.

If you are interested please get in touch with Cecil's Horse Sanctuary for an application form, by email: cecilshorsesanctuary@hotmail.com



Cecil's Horse Sanctuary

How You Can Help

Monetary Donations

There are many ways you can help us financially:

- **Go Fund Me**
- **Just Giving**
- **Charities Aid Foundation**
- **PAYPAL**
- **Crowdfunder**
- **Bank Transfer** – Please request details via email:

cecilshorsesanctuary@hotmail.com

- **Text donate** through DONR
Text PONYANGEL followed by your donation amount to 70085 to give that amount per month.

This will cost your donation amount plus two standard network rate messages.

Become a Guardian Angel

Become a Guardian Angel and donate monthly. Donating on a monthly basis provides us with the security of knowing we can purchase certain things every month without wondering where the next few pounds is coming from. Use Just Giving, Paypal or DONR to donate monthly and become a Guardian Angel.

How You Can Help Without Spending a Penny

There are also plenty of ways to help us that don't cost you anything.

Why not follow our social media pages and share our posts? We post great pictures and videos of our sanctuary and horses, along with updates and information on what has been going on at the sanctuary:



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Cecil's Horse Sanctuary

Volunteers

Cecil's has no paid staff, just the Founder and her army of Volunteers. Here we would also like to say a big thank you to all our other individual volunteers, without whom we just wouldn't be able to manage. Our volunteers carry out duties such as mucking out, filling waters (horses drink A LOT of water), pushing hay and straw (HUGE bales and they eat a lot), poo picking (Horses poop a lot), ragwort pulling, assisting at open days, fundraising, feeding, repairs and maintenance, building shelters and stables, various administration jobs, volunteer coordination, writing newsletters and many many other roles but just too many to mention. These thanks go to our Sundon Park team of volunteers, Elstree volunteers, Radlett volunteers and of course Berkhamsted volunteers all of whom give up their spare time to help Julie look after the horses, ponies, donkey and mule at Cecil's Horse Sanctuary.

Julie's Army of Volunteers



Recently, we have welcomed some volunteering organisations to our team. So, we'd like to say thank you to:

Tony and his team at HACRO who have been helping with repairs to our stables, putting up some of the bamboo screening amongst other jobs on the very long to do list!

www.hacro.org.uk

Chris and his team at Ministry of Justice Community Payback for all the hard work at Berkhamsted, tidying up the field, pulling old metal and wood out of the field, starting to build a recycled fence line using donated pallets. They also have a long list of jobs on their to do list!
<https://jobs.justice.gov.uk/role/community-payback/>

Fresh Home Builders have also recently come on board after approaching us to see if we needed any help with various building services....of course we do, always! Thank you Barak Chever.
<http://www.freshhomebuilders.co.uk/>

Have Your Say

We hope you have enjoyed our very first Newsletter and we would love your feedback. What else would you like to see, read or hear from us? Do you want more of something? Less of something? Anything we haven't thought of? Please get in touch via email!